

In re: Slemmons et al.
Appl. No.: 10/005,633
Filed: December 5, 2001
Page 2

cont'd
B1

26. A microbeam assembly according to Claim 25 wherein the carrier is a tape automated bonding (TAB) carrier comprising a release layer formed from a material selected from the group consisting of polyimide and parylene.

B2

30. A microbeam assembly according to Claim 25 wherein the release layer comprises tungsten.

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated June 5, 2002. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the application as evidenced by the Office Action. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have amended Claims 25, 26, and 30 to more clearly define the claimed invention. In particular, independent Claim 25 has been amended to further recite a release layer positioned between the carrier and the microbeams and a solder dam positioned on a surface of one of the microbeams opposite the carrier. In light of these amendments, Claims 29 and 33 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully submit that the amended set of claims is patentable over the cited references. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application.

I. Amended Dependent Claim 26 is Supported by the Specification

On page 2, the Office Action rejects dependent Claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as containing subject matter not described in the specification. It is not clear from the Office Action the exact nature of the rejection. In light of the general rejection, however, Applicants have amended the claim to include the long form for the abbreviation "TAB." Applicants have also further defined the structure of the carrier. As discussed at page 8, lines 19-36 of the application, TAB devices include a layer of polyimide tape on which the leads are attached. Further, in the specification, it is noted that the release layer 50 of the present invention may be formed by either a polyimide or a parylene. Use of a polyimide or parylene release layer renders the carrier of the claimed invention a TAB carrier. In light of this disclosure, applicants respectfully submit that amended dependent Claim 26 is supported by the specification.